

EPISODE OUTLINE - THE COUNTY FAIR

Principal Characters: Supporting Characters: Extras:

All

(Less Vickie)

Mayor

J.B. King

Ginny

Barton Winslow

Midge Smoot

Schemee

Three

SOCIAL THEME: Learning the importance of pulling together

STATION EVENT: The Indian Valley County Fair

THOMAS EPISODES: "Wrong Road" and "Edward, Trevor and the Really Useful Party"

PUPPET SONG: "City of New Orleans"

PICTURE MACHINE SONG: None

ACQUIRED FOOTAGE: RR footage

CREATIVE PLAY: Making windmills and general preparation for the fair

BILLY STORY: Trains bringing people together

RESOLUTION: Shining Time Station is there for everyone

STORY OUTLINE: It's the big day of the Indian Valley County Fair, and Stacy and Billy are busy hanging bunting and cleaning, and the kids are making windmills and posters. Mr. Conductor appears: he's already been to the fair, and he's laden down with little trinkets. He explains that he had to go before the crowds showed up, and briefly describes all the great things the fair has to offer.

Stacy remembers that she has to leave to finish making her pies to enter in the pie tasting contest. She reminds Billy, the kids and Mr. Conductors that they've agreed to manage the station while she's away; and while they dutifully nod, Stacy reviews all the things they'll be responsible for: passenger and freight schedules, luggage, messages, train information, making sure the clock is running properly, etc. With that she's off to make her pies.

As the station fills with passengers and townspeople, and as the trains begin rushing past, it becomes apparent that Billy, Mr. Conductor and the children haven't appreciated everything that Stacy does to hold the place together, and the station becomes increasingly confused. As time goes on, and as mistakes continue mounting, they all grow grumpy and argumentative with each other.

The problems begin quickly with the arrival of Schemer and Little Schemee. They are lugging their latest money making contraption for the county fair: a pie throwing machine--a device where pies are catapulted at someone's face when they look through an oval hole at the other end. The machine is in everyone's way, but Schemer refuses to move it.

Schemer explains the machine and exits, but not before Little Schemee sells the kids some cotton candy--which turns out to be real cotton colored bright pink to only look like cotton candy.

In the confusion surrounding the pie throwing machine and fake cotton candy, the kids get the schedule information wrong. Midge Smoot arrives with a jar of her pickles, which she intends to enter in the pickle tasting contest. She sees the incorrect schedule information and nearly boards the wrong train before Billy stops her. Being Midge, she makes a negative comment about the station operations--and we know that she'll tell the entire valley about her mishap.

Barton Winslow is next to arrive. He is excited about running in the county fair motorcycle race. Noticing the time he thinks she's running late and dashes out--what he doesn't realize is that Mr. Conductor didn't set the correct time like he was supposed to, and the clock is an hour fast. To make matters worse, Billy forgot to take the luggage off the platform: Barton Winslow comes roaring across the back platform on his motorcycle, and when he exits there is a crash. He comes staggering back into the station: everything is all right, but he lets them know that he wouldn't run his general store in such a slipshod fashion.

*speech
no need
for a
crash*

Everyone begins to accuse everyone else of having caused the mistakes. Ginny arrives in the midst of this disagreement, with her prize chicken in a cage. She sets the chicken down while she tries to get a word in edgewise in order to buy a ticket to the fair. Mr. Conductor appears beside the chicken, while no one is looking, and gives it some feed while he and the chicken discuss her chances of winning the plumpest chicken contest at the county fair. After this brief exchange, Mr. Conductor vanishes.

Dan, who has been out of the station organizing the scattered luggage, mistakes the chicken for some freight and takes it out to the platform. Ginny gets her ticket, but can't find her chicken. Just as the train is pulling out, with her chicken on it, does she realize what's happened: another mistake!

Barton, who is about to leave, offers Ginny a ride on his motorcycle to catch up to the train at the next station, and they exit.

Mr. Conductor returns and, mopping his brow, says this entire mess reminds him of some of the problems on the Island of Sodor. This leads into the TTE story: "Wrong Road."

Mr. Conductor concludes that things can get mixed up, but they do have a way of working out in the end if everyone can pull together. They all regret that Stacy isn't around, and acknowledge how much she does at the station that they hadn't appreciated before.

Schemer enters with Little Schemee. Both of them are dressed up in matching outfits: a giant strawberry that covers their bodies from neck to knee. They begin to make their pies: a pie crust filled with whipped cream, to which they add--with a great flourish--a big strawberry. They leave to get more supplies, and literally bump into J.B. King on the way out.

J.B. King has come to the station because of all the complaints he's heard about the service. Billy assures him that things are now under control. After giving them all a warning J.B. King starts to exit then stops and begins to quietly search around for Mr. Conductor. The kids spot him doing this, and ask him what he's doing.

In a touching moment, J.B. King reveals that he's looking for Mr. Conductor, a little man he once saw when he was a child, and has never been able to find again. Mr. Conductor had told him a riddle, and he only remembers a first part of it--if he could just remember the entire riddle, maybe he would find Mr. Conductor. While he speaks, Mr. Conductor appears behind him and observes the action. The kids give him hope that someday he may find Mr. Conductor--maybe he's just trying too hard.

Billy calls the kids into his office: Stacy is going to be back soon and he has to leave shortly to engineer the Rainbow Sun.

Right after J.B. King leaves, Stacy dashes in with the two pies she wants to enter in the contest. She leaves the pies on the information booth and dashes out again. Schemer and Schemee return with their new supplies. Schemee notices Stacy's pies on the information booth, and believing that they either overlooked them, or that some passenger left them behind, he and Schemer add them to their collection before they exit.

The puppets observe this mix-up, and comment on it so there is no mistaking what has happened.

Meanwhile, inside Billy's office, the kids are concerned that their earlier mistakes have gotten the station in trouble. Billy is somewhat relaxed about it: as long as there are trains, there will be a Shining Time Station. He notes how important trains are, and how much he enjoys driving the Rainbow Sun, which takes people from town to town in Indian Valley. Helping people is what he likes best about the trains.

Connect
with other
people

The kids ask him about a picture on his wall of an engine. He tells them that it's the train called the City of New Orleans. It was a great train, that carried people all across the country.

The City of New Orleans is gone now, but in some way he feels he's carrying on with the Rainbow Sun.

The puppets realize that they know a song about the City of New Orleans, and begin to play it. Puppet song: "City of New Orleans."

The song ends with Billy suiting up to take out his train, the Rainbow Sun. He waves good-bye from the platform to the kids, and a newly appeared Mr. Conductor.

Mr. Conductor confirms what Billy has said: there will always be trains, and there will always be a Shining Time Station.

*is this true?
blind faith*

Of course, he adds, there will always be mistakes--and you can always learn from them if you pull together. This leads to the second TTE story: "Edward, Trevor and the Really Useful Party."

Coming out of the story, Mr. Conductor is interrupted by the off stage entrance of the Mayor, who is the pie tasting judge and has come to taste Stacy's pies. But instead of finding Stacy's pies, he finds one of Schemer's whipped cream pies. The kids gather around to watch him search for a pie inside a mountain of whipped cream.

Stacy returns in time to hear the Mayor tell her that she's lost the contest. She protests that this isn't her pie, but the Mayor claims he can only judge the pie that's put before him. Once again, the other characters begin to blame each other for the mix-up, with each one claiming he or she had nothing to do with it. Stacy calms them down by saying that what really upsets her is seeing them argue. Real friends are more important than any contest, because friends are what make Shining Time Station what it is.

So the mystery remains: what happened to her pies? At that point Schemer and Schemee enter, still in costume. Schemer takes the opportunity to show the Mayor his pie throwing machine. He sticks his head in the oval, where it gets stuck because of his costume. While Schemee and the Mayor try to pull him out, Mr. Conductor appears. He is sitting on the lever that activates the machine and his weight forces the lever down. One of Stacy's pies flies into Schemer's face. Schemer reels backwards, and Little Schemee bursts out laughing at his uncle. But the pie machine hurls Stacy's second pie, and this one hits Schemee.

Stacy recognizes her pies, and the Mayor takes a taste by sliding his finger across Schemer and Schemee's faces. Now he declares that Stacy is the winner.

Billy's train, the Rainbow Sun, pulls in and everyone pours into the station on their way to the fair: J.B. King, Midge Smoot, Ginny (with her chicken); and Barton Winslow. Billy is the last to enter, and he surveys this happy scene from the platform. Stacy and the kids, along with Schemer and Schemee, join the others and leave for the fair. Billy ambles down into the station, where he remarks to himself that Shining Time Station will always be there for them, and for everyone. Mr. Conductor, in one last attempt to startle Billy, adds off camera: "So will I." And we close the show with the two old railroaders together at the station.

? overall story theme



SHINING TIME

STATION

TM

County Fair

EPISODE #220

Written By
Ellis Weiner

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July/25/91

County Fair

Mr. Engineer

EPISODE #220

Mr. Conductor	
Kara Cupper	Erica Luttrell
Stacy Jones	.....	Didi Conn
Schemer	.....	Brian O'Connor
Dan Jones	.....	Ari Magder
Billy Twofeathers	.....	Tom Jackson

J.B. King	.....	Mart Hulswit
Midge Smoot	.....	Bobo Lewis
The Mayor	.....	Jerome Dempsey
Barton Winslow	.....	Gerard Parkes
Ginny	.....	Barbara Hamilton
Schemee	.....	Jonathan Shapiro

The "Flexitoon" Puppeteers

Didi	.....	Olga Flegemacher
Grace The Bass	Peter Baird/Kenny Miele
Rex	Craig Marin
Tex	Alan Semok
Tito Swing	Jonathan Freeman

Extras
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SCENE 1

(MAINSET)

(THE STATION IS DECORATED WITH BUNTING AND SIGNS ANNOUNCING THE COUNTRY FAIR.)

(BILLY AND STACY ARE BUSY HANGING THE LAST OF THE BUNTING)

(ANGLE ON: SWITCH HOUSE AREA)

(KARA IS SEATED ON BENCH, ASSEMBLING A PINWHEEL. SHE LOOKS UP TO DAN, WHO IS POSITIONING A POSTER TO TAPE IT TO THE SIDE OF THE PICTURE MACHINE.

KARA:

Up...up...down...there.

(DAN TAPES IT. KARA READS IT.)

KARA:

"Indian Valley Country Fair. Starting today!"

(SPFX: MR [€]~~C~~S ARRIVAL BLISS)

MR. ~~C~~€

Splendid, Dan this will be the best fair ever.

(ANGLE ON: MR. [€]~~C~~ AS THE KIDS TURN TO GREET HIM. HE IS LOADED DOWN WITH TRINKETS)

KARA:

Mr. ~~Conductor~~! Engineer!

DAN:

(BEAT; PUZZLED)

How come you look like a Christmas tree?

SCENE 1 (CON'T)

MR. G:C

I'll have you know these
are prizes. I've already
been to the fair.

KARA:

But the Fair doesn't
start for another hour.

(ANGLE ON: MR. ^{Engineer} CONDUCTOR AS HE
EXPLAINS HIS PRIZES)

MR. G:C

Which is why I went
early. I'd get trampled
and stamped in those
crowds. In addition to
winning all of these
prizes, I ate...

(RAPIDLY)

One half-hamburger, one
piece of fried chicken,
three entire french
fries, one grape slush
drink, one-half sticky
apple, one slice of a
slice of pizza pie--

(ANGLE ON: MAIN AREA - STACY STOPS,
LOOKS ALARMED, DROPS
~~BROOM~~ HER END OF THE
BUNTING)

STACY:

Pizza pie..Pies!..Oh my
goodness. My pies. Billy?
Kids? Mr. ~~Conductor~~ ^{Engineer}?

(SHE MOTIONS BILLY OVER TO WHERE
THE KIDS ARE)

*more country fair
items*

- Corn dog
- cotton candy
- apple pie
- home made chili

SCENE 1 (CON'T)

STACY: (CONTD)

I have to finish making
my pies for the pie
tasting contest. Now, you
all agreed to run the
station while I'm gone--

(ALL MUTELY NOD, UP AND DOWN, UP
AND DOWN, FAST)

(TRAIN PASSES BY THE STATION)

STACY: (CONTD)

Make sure the passenger
schedules are posted and
keep the freight sched-
ules logged. Be sure all
the luggage is properly
tagged and routed. Don't
forget to always answer
the phone: "Shining Time
Station, how can I help
you." Oh, and another
thing, remember to keep
the clock set and running
on time, and you have to
keep all the luggage off
the platform. Any ques-
tions?

DAN:

Aunt Stacy, what if--

STACY:

Oh, I'm already late!
I've got to get started.
Thanks everyone!

(AND SHE DASHES OUT TOWARD
PLATFORM. A BEAT OF SILENCE)

BILLY:

No problem. Probably.

SCENE 1 (CON'T)

SCHEMER: (OS)

Easy, nephew,
E..A..Z..E..

(MR CONDUCTOR HEARS THIS AND--)

MR. C:

I'll be back here/ When
the coast is clear.

(HE VANISHES AS--)

Sc. 2. ~~MAINSET~~
(ANGLE ON: SCHEMER AND SCHEMEE
MANEUVERING THEIR PIE CATAPULT IN
AWKWARDLY. A SHOPPING BAG HANGS ON
IT)

SCHEMER:

We are transporting an
item of high-tech
sophistication. Be
gentle.

(SCHEMER SEES THE OTHERS AND DROPS
HIS END WITH A BANG)

SCHEMEE:

OW! Presenting (just in
time for the County
Fair)..The Pie Flinger.

(ALL STARE AT IT FOR A BEAT.
THEN--)

KARA:

What does it do?

SCHEMER:

What does it do? Kara, my
child. It is The Pie-
Flinger.

SCENE 7 (CON'T)

SCHEMEE:

It throws pies, dummy!

eh

BILLY:

It's in the way here,
Schemer.

*Sc. 2 cont'd
next page*



SCENE 2

(CONT'D)

(SCHEMER STARTS WANDERING, LECTURING GRANDLY)

SCHEMER:

But someone will say,
"Schemer--and his
talented nephew, Little
Scheme--

SCHEMEE:

Uncle you smashed my toe!

BILLY:

Move this thing, please.

SCHEMER:

--how does it work?" One
is delighted to explain.

(HE DANCES OVER TO THE MECHANISM
AND EXPLAINS)

SCHEMER: (CONTD)

A selfless volunteer, or
some other kind of
sucker, puts his face
here. Then the customer
stands here, pays his
mazuma, and has the
thrill of a lifetime
using the mechanism to
fling a pie at the
aforementioned mug.

DAN:

Oh, I get it. It's like a
catapult. Only stupid.

SCHEMER:

Young Dan? Isn't it time
for your twenty-mile
hike?

SCENE 4 (CON'T)

SCHEMEE:

Hey, not yet! Not when I
have cotton candy. *to sell*

(SCHEMEE TAKES THE SHOPPING BAG OFF
THE MACHINE AND PULLS FROM IT TWO
CONES OF CAPITALS BRIGHT PINK
"COTTON CANDY")

SCHEMEE:

Ten cents each!

KARA:

I've got ten cents.

DAN:

Me, too.

SCHEMER:

Schemee, rake it in, lad.
I've got work to do.

(HE STARTS TO LEAVE AS DAN AND KARA
PAY SCHEMEE FOR THE CANDY AND TAKE
THE CONES. BILLY STOPS SCHEMER)

BILLY:

Schemer, you've got to
move this.

SCHEMER:

Love to, Bill. But not at
the present moment. Ta
ta, all. Nephew: Am-
scray.

(HE AND SCHEMEE DASH OFF. BILLY
WINDS UP NEXT TO THE MACHINE)

BILLY:

Now I gotta move this
thing--

SCENE 2 (CON'T)

(KARA AND DAN SUDDENLY YELL AND
MAKE FACES)

DAN/KARA:

Eeew! Yuck! (etc.)

KARA: (CONTD)

This cotton candy--it's
real cotton!

DAN:

Painted pink!

(SFX: TRAIN ARRIVING--BRAKES,
WHISTLES, STEAM, ETC.)

(PASSENGERS WALK THROUGH THE STA-
TION, ADDING TO THE GROWING CONFU-
SION)

BILLY:

It's 10:55! Somebody get
the arrival and departure
time.

KARA:

I'll get it--ech! Yuck!

(SHE RUNS INTO THE WORKSHOP AND
BRINGS OUT THE INFO BOARD WHICH SHE
HANGS ON THE TICKET BOOTH. MEAN-
WHILE--)

BILLY:

Dan, I need help to move
this thing.

(THE TWO STRUGGLE TO SHIFT THE
MACHINE AS MIDGE SMOOT ENTERS WITH
A PAPER HAG)

BAG

DAN:

Hi, Midge!

SCENE 2 (CONTD)

MIDGE:

Hi me later, Daniel. I've
got to get to Cloggyville
and I don't mean
tomorrow.

(SHE GOES TO INFO BOARD, BUT EN
ROUTE STOPS, AND TAKES FROM THE BAG
A JAR OF HOMEMADE PICKLES. SHE
OPENS THE JAR AND HOLDS IT OUT.

MIDGE: (CONTD)

Gerkin?

BILLY:

(PAUSES, TAKES ONE)

You always travel with
pickles, Midge?

MIDGE:

Now you go telling
everyone that. People
will think I'm odd. All I
usually bring is a couple
bananas, and there's
nothing wrong with that.

(WATCHES HIM MUNCH)

Doesn't it make you just
want to explode with
deliciousness?

(AS BILLY NODS)

Made 'em myself for the
contest at the Fair. But
I got to pick up my
sister first at
Cloggyville.

(SHE POINTS AT BOARD, NODS, HEADS
OFF TO PLATFORM)

SCENE 2 (CON'T)

MIDGE: (CONTD)

The 11:00 train to Cloggyville. Perfect. See you at the fair.

(--AND SHE'S NEARLY OUT THE DOOR.
BILLY SUDDENLY LOOKS ALARMED)

BILLY:

Midge, wait. The 11:00 train doesn't stop at Cloggyville.

BILLY DRAGS MIDGE BY THE ARM. THEY GO TO THE INFO BOARD)

MIDGE:

The 11:00 train goes too, to Cloggyville! It says it on the Schedule Board.

(HE STOPS AS BOTH LOOK AT THE BOARD)

BILLY:

That's a mistake. Who--Kara, did you hang that sign?

KARA:

Why?

BILLY:

Because that's the weekend schedule. I'm sorry, Midge The next train to Cloggyville isn't for two hours.

(TRAIN PULLS OUT.)

(MIDGE REACTS, AND YANKS THE BAG OF PICKLES AWAY FROM HIM)

SCENE 2 (CONTD)

MIDGE:

Well, all I can say is,
you people had better get
your ducks in a row.

(SFX: MOTORCYCLE ARRIVING)

8c.3. ~~(ANGLE ON: PLATFORM -~~ ^{MAINSET - AREA} BARTON WINS-
LOW ROARS IN ON HIS
MOTORCYCLE. HE'S IN FULL
HARLEY REGALIA)

BARTON:

I'm burnin' baby! Barton
is burnin'!

(LOOKS AT OTHERS)

Man, is this Shining Time
Station, or Downersville
City?

DAN:

Hi, Barton!

KARA:

Cool jacket!

BILLY:

Where are you off too?

BARTON:

→ Big race today. Indian Valley
County Fair Motocross
Invitational. I am UP, my
hog is HUNGRY, my threads
are FINE, I--

(HE HAS GLANCED AT CLOCK, AND
STOPS. THE CLOCK SAYS
12:00)

SCENE 3 (CON'T)

BARTON: (CONTD)

I am LATE. Is that right?
Man, time flies when
you're in the groove.

BARTON: (CONTD)

Later, Cats!

(HE RUSHES OUT. BILLY FROWNS AT
CLOCK, CHECKS HIS WATCH)

BILLY:

→ I don't think the clock is right.

(SFX: MOTORCYCLE STARTING, REVVING)

~~30 sec~~
~~1 min~~

SCENE *4*
MAIN ST

(ANGLE ON: SWITCH HOUSE - MR. CONDUCTOR APPEARS. HE LOOKS PAN-ICKY)

MR. C:

Oh no! I forgot to set the clock! It's an hour fast!

(SFX: MOTORCYCLE ROARING AWAY..THEN SCREECH AND CRASH)

(BARTON WALKS STIFFLY BACK IN, MESSED UP, AS OTHERS HOVER AROUND HIM)

BILLY:

Barton, I'm sorry. We should have brought that luggage in earlier. Dan, pull those bags back together in a pile, will you?

(DAN EXITS ON THE RUN.)

KARA:

Plus, Barton, you weren't really late! The clock is wrong.

(BARTON STAGGERS AROUND UNTIL HE REGAINS HIS FOOTING. HE TAKES HIS JACKET OFF, AND BRUSHES IT OFF AND TIDIES IT UP, UNDER--)

BARTON:

This is hardly a businesslike way in which to run this facility, Mr. Twofeathers.

no need for crash

SCENE 3 (CON'T)

KARA:

It's not Billy's fault.
Stacy left us in charge.

BARTON:

In this case, it's every-
one's fault!

(ALL SUDDENLY START TALKING AT
ONCE: BILLY ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILI-
TY, KARA DEFENDING HIM, BARTON
CRITICIZING, MIDGE HINTING THAT HER
FRIENDS WILL FIND THIS ALL VERY
INTERESTING, THEN STORMING OUT.
DURING THIS GINNY ENTERS WITH A
CHICKEN IN A CAGE. SHE SETS IT ON
FLOOR AND STANDS AT TICKET BOOTH,
TRYING TO GET A WORD IN.)

(ANGLE ON: CHICKEN - MR. CONDUCTOR
APPEARS, AND HOLDS OUT A HANDFUL OF
FEED)

MR. C:

Care for some corn? No
doubt you're to be en-
tered in the chicken
contest at the Fair.

(OFF ITS CLUCK)

What's your category?
Plumpness?

(OFF HIS CLUCK)

Not at all.

(SPFX: MR. C POPS OUT)

5
(ANGLE ON: TICKET BOOTH - GINNY
MANAGES TO WAVE BILLY OVER TO SELL
HER A TICKET.)

BILLY:

Sorry, Ginny. Where to?

SCENE 5 (CON'T)

GINNY:

Doodlehaven, Mr.
Twofeathers. And what's
all the confusion about?

(ANGLE ON: PLATFORM ENTRANCE)

(DAN COMES BACK IN, AND SPOTS THE
CHICKEN, HE CROSSES, PICKS IT UP,
AND TAKES IT BACK OUT TO PLATFORM
UNDER--

(TRAIN PULLS IN)

BILLY:

(MAKES OUT HER TICKET)

Stacy's making pies. So
we're running the show.
We've got a few kinks to
iron out.

GINNY:

Well put it in High and
use the Steam setting,
folks. You've got Fair
people coming thick and
fast today.

*you've got things
you need to iron out*

(TAKES TICKET FROM HIM)

Thank you.

(LOOKS DOWN TO CHICKEN)

Lulu, you ready to take a
ride--?

(LOOKS AROUND FRANTICALLY)

Didn't I have a chicken
when I came in here?

(SFX: TRAIN WHISTLE)

5
SCENE 3 (CON'T)

KARA:

I saw Dan carrying a
cage--

GINNY:'

--with my Lulu inside!
Stop that train!

(SHE RUNS OUT TO PLATFORM--)

KARA:

Billy? How long does it
take to make pies?

(--AND RETURNS, PUFFING, WITH
CHICKEN, DAN FOLLOWS)

GINNY:

A second later and this
poor baby'd ~~be~~ on her way
to Doodlehaven.

DAN:

I'm sorry, Ginny.

BARTON:

Ginny, we're two stranded
travelers--

(WITH A LOOK AT BILLY)

--Who deserve better.
Where's your destination?

GINNY:

Doodleheaven, Barton.

BARTON:

Mine, too. Let me give
you a lift to the next
station, and we'll grab
the right train there.

SCENE 6 (CON'T)

GINNY:

A lift? With what?

(BARTON PUTS ON HIS JACKET AND
TURNS HIPSTER)

BARTON:

What else baby? My
chopper!

GINNY:

Oooh, you're on, Daddy-O!

(THEY LEAVE. BILLY SHAKES HIS HEAD
AND EXITS TO HIS WORKSHOP. KARA AND
DAN LOOK AT EACH OTHER)

Sc 6
~~(ANGLE ON:~~ ^{MAINSET} TICKET BOOTH - MR
CONDUCTOR APPEARS, DISTRAUGHT AND
MAPPING HIS BROW.)

MR. C:

Running the station is no
picnic!

KARA:

Stacy makes it look easy.

MR. C:

You know, all this re-
minds me of some confu-
sion not too long ago on
the Island of Sodor. It
has to do with branch
lines. Care to hear it?

DAN:

Sure!

KARA:

But fast. We have work to
do.

*Have belones
for both*

⁶
SCENE 8 (CON'T)

(MR C NODS, BLOWS WHISTLES)

(SPFX: THOMAS INTRO FX)

Sc 7 (VT: TTE "WRONG ROAD"

Sc 8 (~~ANGLE ON:~~ MAINSET) - MR C IS ON
TICKET BOOTH WITH KIDS LISTENING.)

MR C:

So, with trains as with
people, mixups do happen.

KARA:

They sure happened today.

MR. C:

But in the end things
usually sort themselves
out.

DAN:

They'd be sorted out a
lot faster if Stacy was
here. I never knew what a
big job she had.

KARA:

I hope she finishes those
pies soon.

SCHEMER: (OS)

Did somebody say..PIE?

MR. C:

Here comes that fellow
again.

(SPFX: MR. C POPS OUT)

SCENE ~~4~~ 9.

(ANGLE ON: PLATFORM - SCHEMER AND SCHEMEE APPEAR DRESSED IN FULL-SIZE STRAWBERRY COSTUMES. SCHEMER CARRIES A BOX OF SUPPLIES--CRUSTS, CANS OF WHIPPED CREAM, AND STRAWBERRIES. HE SETS UP AT THE TICKET BOOTH UNDER--)

SCHEMER:

Because someone will ask, "How, Schemer, can we make use of your fabulous Pie-Flinger without pies with which to fling?" Thus: our own homemade strawberry cream pies.

(THEY PROCEED TO FILL CRUSTS WITH CREAM, UNDER--)

SCHEMER:

Note that the recipe is simplicity itself, Nothing but crust. Whipped cream, and--

(SCHEMEE HOLDS UP A SINGLE STRAWBERRY AS SCHEMER HOLDS THE CREAM-FILLED SHELL UNDERNEATH IT.)

SCHEMEE:

Ta-daa!

(HE DROPS THE STRAWBERRY INTO THE CREAM.)

SCHEMER:

A fresh strawberry!
Because this is a quality operation.

(HE PICKS UP A NEW SHELL.)

9
SCENE 4 (CON'T)

(HE STARTS TO DISPENSE CREAM, BUT
THE CAN RUNS OUT WITH A SPUTTER.)

SCHEMER: (CONTD)

This can was full an
hour ago. You tested it,
didn't you?

SCHEMEE:

Um, maybe I tested it too
much...

(SCHEMER TAKES HIM BY THE ARM AND
LEADS HIM UPSTAGE TO PLATFORM)

SCHEMER:

Next time, don't eat the
supplies!

(HE LOOKS AROUND)

Come nephew. Let us leave
this den of confusion,
and you can buy me some
new whipped cream.

(SCHEMER AND SCHEMEE EXIT)

(J.B. KING ENTERS)

(ANGLE ON: WORKSHOP - BILLY
EMERGES, SEES KING)

BILLY:

Mr. King.

KING:

This isn't a social call,
Mr. Twofeathers.

(IN SPITE OF HIMSELF, KING STARTS
WANDERING A LITTLE, LOOKING AROUND
THE STATION, PEERING HERE AND THERE
AS HE SPEAKS)

9
SCENE 4 (CONTD)

KING: (CONTD)

I, uh, I've been hearing
complaints about poor
service this morning.

BILLY:

We made a few mistakes.
It's under control now.

KING:

I hope so. Fair Day is
especially hectic. I'd
hat to have to make some
changes around here.
Well, good-bye.

(HE GOES TO PLATFORM ENTRANCE.
BILLY REACTS AND RETURNS TO HIS
WORKSHOP. KING STOPS, THEN
STEALTHILY CREEPS AROUND STATION.
PEEPING HERE AND THERE.)

(THE KIDS SEE THIS AND TRADE A
LOOK. THEY APPROACH HIM.)

DAN:

Mr. King? Excuse me, but,
I mean, what are you
doing?

(KING STRAIGHTENS UP, COLLECTS
HIMSELF, GROWS FORMAL)

KING:

Why nothing. I simply,
uh.. It's my
responsibility to, uh...

9
SCENE 4 (CONTD)

(HE LOOKS AT THEM, DECIDES TO COME
CLEAN)

KING:

I'll tell you. But it's a
secret.

(OFF THEIR NOD)

I'm looking for a little
man. He told me his name
was Mr. Conductor. I only
saw him once, when I was
a little boy. I was
sitting in a train sta-
tion, waiting for the
train to take me home.
But the train was late,
and I started thinking
that I'd never get home
again. And that's when I
saw him... I know he was
real. He whispered a poem
in my ear. But I can only
remember part of it.

DAN:

What did he say?

KING:

In the part I remember,
he said: "All the sharing
that makes life worth
living/And the pleasure
you get 'cause you're
giving/And it's wonderful
how all at once
you're...uh..."

Theme poem
for the
essence of STS

(PAUSE, J.B. KING SIGHS SADLY)

That's all I remember.
But after he said it,
I knew I would get home
safely. And I did.

9.
SCENE 4 (CON'T)

(FROM KID'S POV - MR. CONDUCTOR APPEARS BEHIND KING ON THE NICKELODEON. THE KIDS SEE HIM, BUT HOLDS A FINGER TO HIS LIPS. THEY STIFLE ALL REACTING. KING SENSES THEIR DISTRACTION AND GROWS SELF - CONSCIOUS)

I suppose this sounds a little strange, doesn't it?

(OFF THEIR HEAD SHAKE "NO")

KING (CON'T):

I just have this feeling that if I could remember the rest of the poem, then maybe I'd be able to find him, like I did when I was your age.

KARA:

Maybe you don't have to be a kid to find him.

DAN:

Yeah, maybe you're just trying too hard.

KING:

Maybe I am. But thank you both. For not laughing.

(ANGLE ON : WORKSHOP - BILLY APPEARS IN DOORWAY.)

BILLY:

Kara, Dan? Can I see you a second?

9.
SCENE A (CON'T)

KING:

Uh, yes, run along, kids.
I have work to do, and so
forth.

DAN/KARA:

Okay. Bye, Mr. King
(etc.)

(THE KIDS RUN TO JOIN BILLY AS KING
COLLECTS HIMSELF--AND FREEZES.
HE SENSES SOMETHING. HE SPINS
SUDDENLY--BUT MR. CONDUCTOR DISAP-
PEARS JUST BEFORE KING SEES HIM,
LEAVING BEHIND A NICKEL ON THE
PICTURE MACHINE.)

(KING IS LEFT BLINKING, NOT SURE IF
HE SAW ANYTHING OR NOT. HE NOTICES
THE NICKEL, SHRUGS, AND PUTS IT
INTO THE PICTURE MACHINE AND VIEWS
MUSIC VIDEO.)

Sc. 10 (MUSIC VIDEO: HOME)
(THE SONG ENDS)

Sc. 11 (J.B. KING LOOKS UP, AND LOOKS
AROUND THE STATION.)

KING:

(QUOTING FROM SONG)

"And it's wonderful how
all at once you're where
you wished for all -a -
long..." That's it!
That's the poem.

(A BEAT)

And this is the place
where I belong... Thank
you, Mr. Conductor.
Wherever you are!

(J.B. KING DOES A LIVELY STEP OUT
OF THE STATION, HUMMING THE SONG.)

12
SCENE 8 (~~CON'T~~)

(INT. MAINSET - STACY DASHES IN FROM PLATFORM WITH TWO PIES. SETS THEM DOWN ON INFO BOOTH, LOOKS AROUND FOR A SECOND, THEN RUNS OUT AGAIN. BEAT. THEN, FROM THE OTHER SIDE, SCHEMER AND SCHEMEE ENTER WITH A SHOPPING BAG OF WHIPPED CREAM, ETC.)

(SCHEMEE SEE STACY'S PIES AND CROSSES TO THEM.)

SCHEMEE:

Hey Uncle, look. Real pies.

SCHEMER:

Must have been left hear
by a passenger. Which
means the law of the *outlaw*
jungle prevails. Finders
keepers. Bring 'em along.

(SCHEMER STALKS OUT AS SCHEMEE TAKES THE PIES AND FOLLOWS)

SCENE 43

(INT. JUKEBOX)
(THE PUPPETS ARE ALARMED)

DIDI:

Gross me out! Schemer
stole Stacy's pies!

TITO:

I don't think he knew
they were hers, Didi.

REX:

He sure as heck knew they
weren't his. Isn't that
right, Tex?

TEX:

Sure as heck and then
some, Rex.

SCENE 14

(INT WORKSHOP)

(BILLY, DAN, AND KARA ARE STILL THERE)

DAN:

Billy, did Mr. King look angry to you?

BILLY:

Not angry. A little distracted, maybe.

KARA:

Do you think...

BILLY

Do I think what?

KARA:

Well, we made so many mistakes this morning, we're afraid ~~they~~ might shut down the station.

he

(BILLY LAUGHS, SITS.)

BILLY:

He
They won't do that.

DAN:

But what if they do.

BILLY:

Dan, as long as there are trains, there'll be Shining Time Station. And that'll be for good a long time.

]

SCENE 64 (CON'T)

BILLY (CON'T):

I figure we'll be here
for as long as people
remember the sound of the
whistle echoing through
the valley. And there'll
be a Shining Time Station
for as long as folks can
see the rails, stretching
off into the distance,
where the tracks seem to
travel on forever. Yep,
we'll be around here for
quite some time...

(A DISTANT WHISTLE FROM AN AP-
PROACHING TRAIN)

Speaking of which, it's
getting about time for me
to engineer the Rainbow
son. *Sun*

(HE STARTS TO GATHER HIS THINGS)

SCENE 8 ~~(CONT'D)~~

(INT JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS ARE NODDING)

REX: ,

Yes Sir, that Billy sure
knows his trains. Don't
he, Tex?

TEX:

Well, so do we, Rex.

GRACE:

Hey, you guys. We we also
happen to know a song
about railroad cars.

REX:

This one's for Billy.

DIDI:

Hit it!

(PUPPET SONG: "THE RAILROAD CARS
ARE COMING")

SCENE 9

(UNDER SONG: RAILROAD FOOTAGE
INTERCUT WITH - BILLY GETTING
SUITED UP AND READY TO GO.)

(SONG ENDS, KIDS ARE SITTING BY
SIGNAL HOUSE WITH MR. CONDUCTOR
SITTING ON THE BENCH BETWEEN THEM.)

MR. C:

It's true, what Billy
said, you know. There
will always be trains,
and there will always be
Shining Time Station.

*too preachy
the second time*

DAN:

Not if we keep running
it.

MR. C:

(LAUGHS)

Oh, everybody makes
mistakes. The trick is to
pull together to correct
them. Like that time with
Bertie and Trevor and
Terence--well, let's
start at the start and
begin at the beginning.

(HE BLOWS WHISTLE)

(SPFX: THOMAS INTRO FX)

SCENE 10 17

(VT: TTE "EDWARD, TREVOR, AND THE
REALLY USEFUL PARTY")

18
SCENE 11

(RESUME - SWITCH HOUSE - MR C
WRAPS UP STORY)

MR C:

Mistakes and accidents
will always happen. But--

(HE IS DISTRACTED BY SOMETHING ON
THE PLATFORM. HE LOOKS ALARMED)

MR C: (CONTD)

Oh dear.

(HE DISAPPEARS. THE KIDS TURN TO
SEE--)

(ANGLE ON: PLATFORM - MAYOR
FLOPDINGER ARRIVES, SPUTTERING AND
CONFUSED, COMES INTO MAIN AREA.
KIDS JOIN HIM.)

MAYOR:

But, well, I mean to say,
what good is a pie con-
test without pies?

KARA:

Hi, Mister Mayor!

MAYOR:

Yes, well, that's easy
for you to say. But I'm
supposed to be judging
the pie contest.

DAN:

That sounds like a neat
job!

SCENE 11 (CON'T)

MAYOR:

Oh no, oh no...neat? Have
you seen those pies?
Messy! Messy! But the, I
haven't seen the pies I'm
looking for. Stacy's.
Stacy's pies.

MAYOR: (CONTD)

Why does she hide
her pies?

(HE SEES SCHEMER'S WHIPPED CREAM
PIE, AND GOES TO IT)

MAYOR: (CONTD)

This must be Stacy's pie.

MAYOR:

Now. Let us judge this
pie. Appearance...?

(EYEBALLS IT; FROWNS)

Not the best. Fair. Poor.
Actually terrible.
Still...

(HE REMOVES FROM HIS JACKET POCKET
HIS OFFICIAL FORK, AND WAVES IT
AROUND LIKE A GOURMET, AND STARTS
TO "CUT INTO" THE PIE. HE IS AMAZED
THAT THE FORK KEEPS GOING THROUGH
THE CREAM, MEETING NO RESISTANCE.

MAYOR: (CONTD)

Hm. Texture! Texture!
Terrible. I don't think
I've ever encountered a
pie with such substandard
texture before. But,
there is always taste..

SCENE 11 (CON'T)

(HE FORKS SOME OF THE CREAM INTO
HIS MOUTH, JUST AS--)

(TRAIN PULLS IN)

(ANGLE ON: PLATFORM, STACY ARRIVES)

(BILLY NODS TO STACY AND EXITS IN
ENGINEER HAT)

STACY:

Oh, Mr. Mayor. Here you
are.

(HE TURNS TO HER AS SHE JOINS HIM)

(TRAIN PULLS OUT)

MAYOR:

Yes, Miss Jones, here I am.
But I wish I weren't, then
I wouldn't have to tell
you that this pie you
have created is quite the
worst thing I have ever
tasted, and comes in dead
last in the contest. And
I mean dead.

STACY:

But Mayor Flopdinger,
this isn't my pie.

MAYOR:

I can only judge whatever
pie is placed in front of
me.

STACY:

(LOOKING AROUND)

But I left two pies here.
Kara, what happened to
them:

SCENE 11 (CON'T)

KARA:

I never saw them, Stacy.

DAN:

Me neither.

(ALL START TALKING AT ONCE: THE KIDS SAY THEY NEVER SAW STACY'S PIES, THE MAYOR INSISTS THIS MUST BE HERS BECAUSE HERE IT IS)

(STACY TELLING WHAT PIES SHE ACTUALLY DID MAKE. FINALLY STACY REGARDS THE OTHER THREE AS THEY ARE, AND HOLD UP HER HANDS.)

STACY:

Everybody! Please!

(THE QUIET DOWN)

Let's not argue like this over a couple of silly pies. Real friends are more important than any contest, aren't they?

KIDS:

Yeah! Right! (etc)

MAYOR:

Well...well, yes I suppose so.

STACY:

It's friends that make Shining Time Station what it is. That's why we belong here.

SCENE 12

(ANGLE ON PLATFORM - SCHEMER AND SCHEEME STAND THERE IN STRAWBERRY COSTUMES. HOLDING STACY'S PIES.)

SCHEMER:

Well said, Stacy Jones!
It's friends -- and PIES!

(THEY JOIN THE OTHERS. MAYOR FROWNS AT SCHEMER)

MAYOR:

I know this strawberry...

SCHEMER:

(HOLDS OUT HAND)

Schemer, Mr. Mayor. And my brilliant nephew. Little Scheeme. Allow us to demonstrate our latest labor-saving device. The pie Flinger!

(SCHEMER PLACES STACY'S PIES ON THE CATAPULT END, THEN GOES TO END OF MACHINE AND PUTS HIS HEAD THROUGH HOLE. UNDER--)

SCHEMER: (CONTD)

The victim's head goes in here --

(STICKS HEAD IN)

--while the thrower stands--

(HE REALIZES HIS HEAD IS STUCK. PULLS, STRUGGLES, FORCES A LAUGH)

SCHEMER: (CONTD)

Absolutely nothing to worry about.

19
SCENE 12 (CONTD)

SCHEMER:

Edison got his head stuck
in his inventions, too.

(HE STRUGGLES AGAIN)

SCHEMEE:

Here, Uncle, let me help.

(TO MAYOR)

Well? Give us a hand!

(SCHEEME AND MAYOR STRUGGLE,
PULLING SCHEMER FROM REAR, AS--)

(CLOSEUP ON MACHINE - MR CONDUCTOR
APPEARS, SITTING ON LEVER THAT
OPERATES CATAPULT. HE HOLDS HIS
WEIGHT UP BY HANGING ONTO A NEARBY
STRUT. THEN, WITH A LITTLE SMILE,
HE LETS GO AND SITS)

(ANGLE ON: MACHINE AND ROOM -
MACHINE SHOOTS PIE AT--)

STACY:

Wait, those are my pies!

(SCHEMER, WHO IS HIT SMACK IN THE
FACE. HE SCREAMS AND POPS OUT OF
THE DEVICE, COVERED. SCHEEME BURSTS
INTO LOUD, OBNOXIOUS LAUGHTER)

(MR C SITS AGAIN, AND--)

(THE MACHINE SHOOTS THE OTHER AT --
SCHEEME, WHO TAKES IT IN THE FACE.
HE SCREAMS AND STAGGERS AROUND AS
OTHERS (INCLUDING MAYOR) LAUGH)

SCHEEME:

It's not funny! I can't
see!

19
SCENE 12 (CON'T)

MAYOR:

Let me help.

(HE TAKES A SWIPE OF PIE OUT OF
SCHEEME'S EYES AND TASTES IT)

MAYOR:

Strawberry and ...peach?

STACY:

Pineapple.

MAYOR:

Inspired!

(HE CROSSES TO SCHEMER AND TAKES A
SWIPE OFF HIS FACE)

SCHEMER:

Hey, that's my face, you
know. I want some credit
for this.

MAYOR:

Blueberry and...grape?

STACY:

Black currant.

MAYOR:

The winner!

(THE KIDS CHEER AS--)

((SFX: TRAIN ARRIVING, STOPPING.))

20
SCENE 13

(ANGLE ON: PLATFORM - KING, MIDGE, GINNY -WITH CHICKEN- AND BARTON FLOCK INTO STATION, ALL TALKING AT ONCE. BILLY THEN ARRIVES AND LAUGHS AT THIS HECTIC SCENE. HE CHECKS HIS WATCH, THEN HOLLERS)

BILLY:

All aboard for the Indian
Valley County Fair!

(EVERYONE STOPS, THEN STARTS JABBERING MORE EXCITEDLY. STACY PULLS FROM BEHIND THE TICKET BOOTH A SIGN AND PROPS IT UP AND READS ALOUD:

GONE TO THE FAIR
BACK IN THREE HOURS.

(--AND HERDS EVERYONE THROUGH PLATFORM ENTRANCE PAST BILLY, WHO STEPS DOWN INTO MAIN AREA TO TAKE A SATISFIED LOOK AROUND.)

(ANGLE ON SWITCH HOUSE - MR. C SILENTLY APPEARS, WATCHES HIM)

(RESUME - BILLY TALKS TO HIMSELF)

BILLY:

Things do change. But for
us. and for everyone,
Shining Time Station will
always be here.

Too much

(BILLY STARTS, SPINS, AND SEES MR. C. HE GRINS, AND POINTS A FINGER AT HIM, AS THOUGH TO SAY, "YOU RASCAL." MR. C POINTS BACK. HOLD ON THESE TWO LIKE THAT, AND THEN FADE OUT.)

(CREDITS)